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# CIA Eyes Base, Says Holland

Missile Research  
Is Under Way  
At Richmond

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The Department of Defense has decided to keep Richmond Air Base in South Dade, but a spokesman for Sen. Spessard Holland's office said today that the "grapevine" has it that the Central Intelligence Agency is interested in the property.

The information from Sen. Holland's office came after Dade County, trying to obtain land for a mentally retarded children's home, were told that a 1,571-acre tract on the abandoned base was no longer available.

## PARTIALLY EXPLAINED

The mystery of why the Department of Defense wants to hold the base was partially cleared up by spokesman for Zenith Technical Enterprises Inc.

Zenith occupies a number of buildings on the property.

"We have a prime contract with the defense department to work on ground air missile research and advanced weapons systems," said Theodore G. Shackley, Zenith's research director.

The defense department asked GSA to put the hold order on the property, he explained, for three reasons:

- To maintain the security of the classified research under way;
- To reserve land for possible expansion of the work;
- To a safety factor — "this is a safety factor when you're doing research in weapons systems."

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Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Federal Aviation Agency.

The Army also is doing highly classified research on the site. The Coast Guard has radio towers at the site. The Air Force, in conjunction with the Homestead Air Force Base, has a radar unit. Most of these activities have been expanded recently.

University of Miami staffers, who have occasion to visit the base in conjunction with their research — in cancer, pharmacology, agriculture and industry — report uniformed guards in gray jeeps patrol the heavily wooded tract.

"We don't have anything to do with the employees in the government enterprises, however," a U-M scientist said.